

Pest Update (July 22, 2009)

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Available on the net at:

<http://www.state.sd.us/doa/Forestry/educational-information/Pest-Alert-Archives.htm>.

Any treatment recommendations, including those identifying specific pesticides, are for the convenience of the reader. Pesticides mentioned in this publication are generally those that are most commonly available to the public in South Dakota and the inclusion of a product shall not be taken as an endorsement or the exclusion a criticism regarding effectiveness. Please read and follow all label instructions and the label is the final authority for a product's use on a particular pest or plant. Products requiring a commercial pesticide license are occasionally mentioned if there are limited options available. These products will be identified as such but it is the reader's responsibility to determine if they can legally apply any product identified in this publication.

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Plant development (Phenology) for the growing season

The Ural falsespireas are blooming in Brookings; we are still at normal development for the year (but wetter than normal).

Want to know how to identify trees that may be colonized by the emerald ash borer?



Resource professionals throughout the state have been inundated with calls from homeowners and producers worried that their tree or shelterbelt is infested with the emerald ash borer. Unfortunately there are several other insects that make their living burrowing in and through ash trees and these insects are often confused with emerald ash borer. There will be an internet session on how to separate the emerald ash borer look-a-likes from the real thing next Thursday, July 30 from noon to 1:00 pm Central Daylight Time. This session can be accessed from any computer that is connected to the internet. The site to reach the session is available at:

<http://sas.illuminate.com/m.jnlp?sid=2007004&>

The password is M.11D2672C10D60A9A1D6CE03E89ED43

You need to have illuminate software downloaded onto your computer and this free download may take 5 or 10 minutes to be completed. Start the process a little early next Thursday so you'll be set to view the session at noon.

E-samples



Diplodia tip blight symptoms are appearing throughout the state. This last week I received numerous samples and e-mails from educators and homeowners concerned about the decline and discoloration of pines. The symptoms commonly seen or reported are yellowing and wilting new needles on the shoot tips. The shoot tips are also stunted and often covered with sticky white resin and the older needles are missing or have turned

an ash-gray and are hanging. Diplodia tip blight is probably the most common disease reported on Austrian and ponderosa pines in our state. It is commonly associated with hail or other stresses, but it is not that these stresses necessarily provide wounds for the disease to enter as much as they stress the tree further

and the disease, already present, begins to exhibit symptoms. The control for the disease is an application of a copper fungicide or a fungicide containing chlorothalonil just as the buds are beginning to open and then repeat the application once the new needles completely emerge and finally a third application ten days later. Control is probably not the best choice to describe treatments for this disease. Management may be better, as our treatments do not cure the tree, just reduce the severity and often annual treatments are necessary to maintain an attractive tree.



no need for any control.

Maple bladder galls are still showing up across the state and despite their common, and annual, appearance in silver maples, they still generate some concern. These galls are the work of a small mite that feeds on the underside of the leaves and this results in galls forming on the upper leaf surface. The galls begin as green bumps and then become red and black as the season progresses. The galls do not harm the tree so there is



Is this the dreaded emerald ash borer? No, but this is a common insect showing up in the central part of the state. This is a metallic wood-borer (*Buprestis confluenta*) that colonizes poplars and other hardwoods in our region. I receive samples of this buprestid and its cousin the golden buprestid that attacks pines from people worried that they have found the emerald ash borer. This is one of the insects that will be covered in next

Thursday's illuminate session on emerald ash borer.

Samples received

Beadle County (extension)

What is wrong with Clara's apple tree. The leaves are turning brown and curling.

The leaves submitted as a sample were infected with apple scab. A fungal disease that causes the leaves to develop olive-green to brown blotches and these infected leaves often become distorted. While the symptoms appear in mid-summer, the control must begin in the early spring, just as the buds are swelling and then continuing treatments every 7 to 10 days until three weeks after petal fall. The most common fungicide used for homeowner trees is Captan.

Day County (extension)
cotoneaster hedge?

What is wrong with Carl's

There is some oystershell scale on the plant but the blackening and wilting tips are symptoms commonly associated with fireblight. This is a bacterial disease that occurs frequently on hedge cotoneaster. The best control of the disease is to rejuvenate the entire hedge, cutting all the shoots down to 2- or 3-inches above the ground. This usually eliminates the disease but not always as sometimes the blight extends to the base. I also recommend treating your pruners or loppers with Lysol Disinfectant between cuts to avoid further spreading the disease.

Faulk County (extension)

Daryl would like to know what these two plants are. One is about a six foot tall bush and the other is growing in his flower bed.

The first one is the Tatarian honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*) and the one in the flower bed is an apple (*Malus* spp).

Grant County (extension)

What is wrong with this Autumn Blaze maple? The leaves on one of the branches are curling and cupping. The other leaves on the tree look fine.

The symptoms are very typical of those produced when the young foliage is exposed to 2,4-D herbicide drift. I wonder if someone sprayed beneath the tree or if a column of drift went through the tree and caused these symptoms. I have seen unusually patterns such as this when the wind carries the drift though only a portion of a tree.

Gregory County (conservation district)

What is wrong with this pine tree? The needles are brown and there is a lot of sap on the tips.

This is diploia tip blight. See under e-samples in this *Update* for more information on this disease and its management.

Gregory County (conservation district)

What is wrong with these cedars? They are turning brown from the top.



I was able to find phomopsis twig blight on the sample provided. This is a common fungal disease responsible for the browning of shoot tips in junipers across the state. It can be controlled with applications of a copper fungicide beginning in mid-May and then every 14 days till about the end of June. The disease is rarely a tree-killer, however, so I suspect there may be more affecting the trees than this disease. Botryosphaeria canker is often associated with the dieback and decline of junipers. If you find sunken cankers near the base of dead branches (they almost look like a bruise, see the picture to the left) then you found the major problem. Unfortunately there is no effective control of this canker disease other than remove infected branches or trees.

McPherson County (extension)

#1 – Norma’s patio plant has some brown lower leaves. What might be the problem?

This browning is usually due to poor drainage. She needs to be sure not to over-water the plant; any extra water should drain out the holes in the bottom of the pot.

#2 and #3 – Norma’s crabapple leaves are cupping and falling.

The only problem I could find on the sample was chlorosis. The leaves were turning yellow but the veins were remaining green. These symptoms can be associated with many problems but the most common is a lack of iron due to the alkaline soil conditions. The problem is often worse during years with lots of rain – this year in Brookings – or if the tree is situated on soils that are poorly drained. If she never noticed the problem before I would just attribute this to the wet weather otherwise she may want to consider treating the tree with a chelated iron fertilizer to correct the problem. She might have to drive to Aberdeen to one of the garden centers to find a chelated iron fertilizer.

#4 – The maple at the Courthouse is turning brown. It was transplanted this spring.

The browning and abnormally small leaves are common symptoms of transplant shock. I suspect sometime was done wrong at transplanting – usually its planting the tree too deep – or the lack of care after transplanting – usually over or under-watering.

#5 – The spruce tree at the Courthouse has the older needles turning a purple then falling.

There were no signs of an insect, mite or pathogen on the twigs submitted as a sample. In fact the growth looked very good. The discoloration and premature loss of the older needles could be due to any number of stressors but a common one is growing on a poorly drained soil. Is that a possibility for this tree?

#6 – What is causing the spots on Laura’s apple tree leaves?

This is cedar-apple rust, a fungal disease that lives half its life on apples (and crabapples) and the other half on junipers (cedars). The disease causes these yellow to orange spots to appear on the leaves and with severe infections the leaves can also drop prematurely. The disease can also affect the fruit. A fungicide containing myclobutanil can be used to control the disease next year with the first application applied as the leaves open and then every 7 to 10 days until about three week after the petals fall.

Tripp County (extension)

What is wrong with Nell’s spruce tree. The newer growth looks okay but the older needles are falling.

This sample was covered in spruce spider mites and debris from their activities. This is not the time for treatment and our next window is not until fall when the maple leaves begin to color. The pesticide mentioned in the form will work on spruce spider mites but I would probably use a product containing

acephate or even better hire a commercial applicator as they can apply more effective products.

Union County (extension)

**What is wrong with this pine tree.
Mike has a whole grove and is concerned about losing them.**

This is diplodia tip blight. See under e-samples in this *Update* for more information on this disease and its management.